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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have called us, and we are Yours. We pray this day that our lawmakers would respond to this calling with worthiness, keenly aware of the privilege that it is You who have sent them into the leadership of this country.

May they receive this mantle of responsibility with all humility, gentleness, and patience. May they demonstrate eagerness to maintain the unity of the spirit who binds this body together in peace, bearing with all others around them, in the manner of unconditional love You Yourself have revealed to Your sons and daughters.

Help us each to live into the occupations to which You have called us. In living out the lives You have given us and in interacting with those into whose company You have brought us, may we build one another up in faith and love. May words of truth and not evil spill from our mouths.

When we are angry, keep us from sinning one against the other. As Members of one body, may we show grace in our encounters and, when necessary, offer forgiveness even as You, in Your divine mercy, have forgiven us.

It is in Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will take this occasion to update her policies of January 4, 2021, and December 15, 2020, regarding the requirement to wear masks in the Hall of the House during the coronavirus crisis.

Consistent with updated guidance from the Office of Attending Physician, the Chair wishes to inform Members that while masks continue to be required in the Hall of the House, Members are permitted to remove their masks temporarily while under recognition. To be clear, Members and staff must wear masks in the Hall of the House at all times except that a Member may remove their mask when recognized by the Chair. In addition, Members presiding as Chair may remove their masks when speaking.

This announcement is incorporated within the policy on conduct during a covered period of January 4, 2021, and the Sergeant-at-Arms is directed to enforce mask requirements consistent with this announcement.

The Chair appreciates the continued attention of all Members and staff to these health and safety protocols.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Certificate of Election received from the Honorable John Bel Edwards, the Governor of Louisiana, and the Honorable R. Kyle Ardoin, the Secretary of State of Louisiana, indicating that, at the Special Election held April 24, 2021, the Honorable Troy A. Carter was elected Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District, State of Louisiana.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE TROY CARTER, OF LOUISIANA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER. Will Representative-elect CARTER and Members of the Louisiana delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now a Member of the 117th Congress.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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